

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 25, 2005. Claims 1 to 52 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 2, 22 to 25, 45 to 47 and 49 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The drawings were objected to for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Regarding the feature of “functional information for a facsimile defined by a Tagged Image File Format (TIFF)”, without disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of the objection, this feature is no longer included in the claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this objection is now moot and respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

In regard to the feature of “display on an operation panel”, Applicant submits that this step is shown in FIG. 5 as step S100-3. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings based on this feature.

Claims 1 to 100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, the feature of “transmitting/receiving” has now been amended to read “communicating.” In addition, the term “and/or” has been amended to read “and.” Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Claims 1 to 4, 7 to 15, 25, 27, 30, 31, 34 to 48, 42, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51 to 67, 72, 82, 84 and 86 to 100 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,600,750 (Joffe) in view of RFC 2306 (Parsons). Claims 3, 9, 10, 26, 32 and 33 were rejected under § 103(a) over

Joffe in view of allegedly admitted prior art. Claims 5, 6, 22, 28, 29 and 41 were rejected under § 103(a) over Joffe in view of allegedly admitted prior art and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,124,947 (Seo). Claims 16 to 20, 23, 24, 39, 40, 46, 50, 68 to 71, 73 to 81, 83 and 85 were rejected under § 103(a) over Joffe in view of RFC 2306 in view of allegedly admitted prior art, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,356,356 (Miller). Claims 21 and 44 were rejected under § 103(a) over Joffe in view of RFC 2306 in view of allegedly admitted prior art, and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,535,303 (Wolf). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns facsimile communication using a public network. One feature of the invention is to determine a format of image data to be communicated, and to perform communication of functional information after the format of image data is determined. That is, although an image format to be communicated is determined in accordance with a stored partner's function, the claimed invention is for not only confirming whether or not a partner's function is changed, as is usual in facsimile communication, but also notifying a partner of function information designated for image data to be communicated. According to the claimed invention, it is possible to communicate function information in communication of email data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a communication apparatus for communicating electronic mail data by connecting to the Internet. The apparatus includes: determination means for determining a format of image data with reference to a database, in a case where communication of the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto is performed; and communication means for performing communication pertaining to functional information in addition to the

communication of the electronic mail data after the format of image data is determined by the determination means.

In contrast, Joffe discloses a system that can transmit emails with TIFF files attached thereto for facsimile transmissions. (Joffe, Column 4, Lines 10 to 20). In addition, Parsons discloses that a header for TIFF-F file should contain information relating to the facsimile message included in a TIFF image. (Parsons, Section 3.9.1 of Page 16 entitled “TIFF Reader”). However, neither Joffe nor Parsons disclose or suggest determining a format of image data with reference to a database, in a case where communication of the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto is performed and performing communication pertaining to functional information.

Furthermore, Miller discloses a system for sending a fax to one or more e-mail addresses and Seo discloses a device for broadcasting facsimile messages. However, neither Miller nor Seo disclose or suggest determining a format of image data with reference to a database, in a case where communication of the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto is performed and performing communication pertaining to functional information.

In light of the deficiencies of the cited references as discussed above, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 2 includes the features of determination means for determining a format of image data with reference to a database, in a case where communication of the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto is performed; and control means for controlling said first communication means so as to perform communication concerning functional information after the format of image data is determined by said determination means.

Claim 22 includes the features of determination means for determining a format of image data with reference to a database and means for performing communication of functional information by said first communicating means after the format of image data is determined by said determination means. Claim 23 includes the features of determination means for determining the image format with reference to a database and the designated image format and functional information communication means for communicating functional information on the determined image format. Claim 24 includes the features of a determination means for determining a format of image data with reference to a database and communication means for performing communication concerning functional information after the format of image data is determined by said determination means. Claim 25 includes the features of a determination procedure of determining a format of image data with reference to a database, wherein communication concerning functional information, is executed after the format of image data is determined.

Applicant submits that the discussion from above applies to Claims 2, 22, 23, 24 and 25, namely that the applied references neither disclose nor suggest the features of determining the image format with reference to a database and the designated image format and then performing communication concerning functional information on the determined image format. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 2, 22, 23, 24 and 25 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claim 45 includes the features of a determination procedure of determining a format of image data with reference to a database; and communication of functional information is performed by said first communication procedure after the format of image data is determined. Claim 46 includes the feature of a determination procedure of determining the image format with reference to a database and the designated image format and a functional information

communication procedure of communicating functional information on the determined image format. Claim 47 includes the features of a determination procedure of determining a format of image data with reference to a database and a communication procedure of performing communication concerning functional information after the format of image data is determined by said determination procedure. Claim 49 includes the feature of a determination step of determining a format of image data with reference to a database; and a step of performing communication of functional information in said first communicating step after the format of image data is determined in said determination step. Claim 50 includes a feature of a determination step of determining the image format with reference to a database and the designated image format; and a functional information communication step of communicating functional information on the determined image format. Claim 51 includes the features of a determination step of determining a format of image data with reference to a database and a communication step of performing communication concerning functional information after the format of image data is determined in said determination step. Claim 52 includes the features of means for determining a format of image data with reference to a database in a case where communication of the electronic mail data with facsimile-format image data attached thereto is performed between the plurality of communication apparatus and means for performing communication concerning functional information after the format of image data is determined.

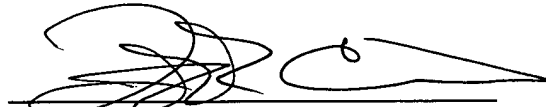
Applicant submits that the discussion from above applies to Claims 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51 and 52, namely that the applied references neither disclose nor suggest the features of determining the image format with reference to a database and the designated image format and then performing communication concerning functional information on the determined image

format. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 51 and 52 are fully in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', written over a horizontal line.

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